THE RED CROSS—WHAT-HOW-WAY

By Charles Lee Bryson

AS NOW constituted, the American Red Cross is but 12 years old. It was chartered by congress in 1905, and is protected by various laws passed since that date. But it owes its existence to the convention of Geneva, held in 1863, and the treaty—often called the Red Cross treaty—of 1864, at which a number of civilized nations agreed that each should form an organization for the relief of the wounded in war, and that this organization of each should be respected by all the others.

The most powerful immediate force making for this treaty was a little paper written by Henri Dunant, a Swiss, describing the horrors of the battlefield of Solferino. He visited that battlefield after the French, Italian and Austrian armies had fought over it and had left 30,000 wounded to die uncared for, amid agonies that cannot be told. Neither surgeons, nurses nor comrades paid any heed to those 30,000 whose tortured bodies lay for days on the field, until death relieved those who could not crawl away.

But Dunant saw—and heard—the horrors there, and he told so much of it that he was able to get the leading nations to send delegates to the Geneva convention, and so started the movement which has now developed into the Red Cross. A fine account of this achievement was in the Red Cross Magazine of May, 1917.

Though now acclaimed a leader in humanitarian work, the United States was then so little interested in the Red Cross that the treaty was not signed until 1882. But in 1905 the government awoke, at least in part, to the opportunity, and chartered the American Red Cross as it is today. The president of the United States is the active head of the Red Cross, and presides at its meetings. But so little influence has politics in this work of mercy that former President Taft is chairman of the central committee, by appointment of President Wilson. And the present writer wishes to say that, though he has been connected more or less closely with headquarters of the central division for two and a half years, he actually does not know the politics of another officer of either national or local organization. Like snakes in Ireland, politics in the Red Cross is not.

The government of the American Red Cross is vested in a central committee of eighteen members, six appointed by the president of the United States, the others elected by representatives of the members. And since the president himself is chosen by the people, the policy of the entire Red Cross is united very closely alike to the government and to the people. Since a central committee of eighteen is too unwieldly to transact routine business with dispatch, power is further concentrated in an executive committee of seven members, of whom five constitute a quorum. The chairman of the executive committee must, by law, be the chairman of the central committee.

How closely the Red Cross is identified with the government is shown by tracing, briefly, the positions held by its officers. As has been said, the president of the United States is president, and he appoints the chairman of the central committee and six of its members. The chairman of the central committee is also chairman of the executive committee of seven. The treasurer of the Red Cross is John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency of the United States, and the counselor of the Red Cross is John W. Davis, United States solicitor general.

Under former President Taft on the central committee are such men as Brig. Gen. Charles Bird of the United States Army; Rear Admiral William C. Braisted, surgeon general of the United States navy; Maj. Gen. William C. Gorgas, surgeon general of the United States army; Robert Lansing, United States secretary of state; Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, and Judge W. W. Morrow.

The work of the national organization is carried on under three great departments: One for military relief; one for civilian relief, and one for chapters. The composition of each will be briefly outlined.

The department of military relief is under Col. Jefferson Randolph Kean, United States army medical corps, a grandson of Thomas Jefferson. Under him are the medical bureau, in charge of the medical personnel of base hospitals, the first-aid instruction; the nursing bureau, in charge of nurses and nurses' aids for base hospitals, and women's classes in training; the service units to care for soldiers and sailors—ambulance companies, base hospitals, nurse detachments, sanitary detachments and general hospitals; and the Red Cross supply service, for the buying, storing and shipping of all kinds of supplies.

The department of civilian relief is under Ernest P. Bicknell, director general, with a long record of personal service in disaster relief. His department controls all relief work at domestic and foreign disasters of fire, flood and pestilence; the relief of noncombatants in war, both here and abroad; the care of the families of soldiers and sailors; the town and country nursing service; and the sale of Christmas seals for the stamping out of tuberculosis.

The department of chapters is under E. H. Wells, director of chapters. It deals, through the directors of the nine territorial divisions, with the organization of new chapters, and the membership campaigns in those already formed.

The Red Cross Magazine, at first little more than a monthly bulletin which told, briefly, the doings of the organization, has now grown into a splendid publication (valued recently at $1,000,000), which tells by clear pictures and vivid stories the history of the Red Cross for each month all over the world.

Each member of the Red Cross above the one-dollar class gets the Red Cross Magazine free, part of the dues going to the publication. The circulation, which was only 25,000 three years ago, is now about 200,000, and growing by leaps of 50,000 at a time. It has been predicted by men in the position to know best that within a few years it will be making $250,000 a year clear profit for the Red Cross, instead of costing $10,000 a month, as it did until a short time ago.

Under the national organization at Washington, the territory of the United States is divided into seven great divisions, each under the supervision of a division director, responsible to Washington, and standing between the national officers and the the state and local organizations.

The unit of the Red Cross system is the chapter. This always covers some definite territory, usually a large city or a county—sometimes several counties.

Very briefly stated, the American Red Cross is an organization to relieve human suffering, and its aim is to prepare, in time of peace and quiet, for its relief work in war, disaster or pestilence.

It works under the protection and with the aid of the government, and, being international in its scope, is recognized by and works in harmony with similar organizations in all civilized countries. But its strength comes from the people directly, who give of their time, their money and their lives to it.

Its reason for being is the same that has called into existence our hospitals, our asylums, our charity organizations—even our physicians—because it stands for a work which *must* be done and which cannot be done except by preparation in advance. Until the Red Cross was organized, the wounded on the battlefield and the victims of civil disaster alike had to go without care until amateur relief could be organized *after* the need had become imperative.

The chapter is governed, on a smaller scale, very much as the Red Cross as a whole is governed. It has its chairman and other officers, its board of directors and its executive committee, in whose hands the active work is carried on. In large chapters an executive secretary usually does most of the active work of the executive committee.

Each chapter is divided into a section for military relief and a section for civilian relief, much as the national organization is divided. And each section has its committees to carry out the various activities.

The section for military relief has its committees on: Red Cross; instruction; hospital supplies; warehousing and shipping; supplies for fighting men, and special committees for such work as organizing hospital companies, sanitary detachments, surgical sections and supply depots.

The section for civilian relief has its committees on: Care of families of soldiers and sailors; relief for noncombatants; care of discharged soldiers and sailors; training in volunteer civilian relief, and special committees as needed on local disaster, care of refugees and other kindred subjects.

How the Red Cross operates is perhaps best told by citing some of the concrete examples of its work. To begin with, two of the most recent instances of civilian disaster relief, take the tornadoes which devasted Newcastle and New Albany, Ind., at intervals of about two weeks.

When Newcastle was laid in ruins with the loss of a score of lives, and several hundred persons made homeless and thrown out of work, the present writer, learning the situation through telegraph and long distance telephone messages to the press, notified Division Director John J. O'Connor of Chicago. Within ten minutes Mr. O'Connor was calling for Red Cross nurses, surgeons, trained investigators, and arranging with Washington for whatever funds might be needed to start the work of rescuing the survivors, feeding and housing them, getting them back to work, and collecting, identifying and burying the dead. All night long, from his room in Chicago, he was putting this, that and the other agency to work at the end of a wire, and the dawn of the next day saw order coming out of chaos.

Then, and not before, Mr. O'Connor took train for the scene, and when he arrived, found his orders being carried out. He took personal charge, aided by the chairman and committees of the Indianapolis and other nearby chapters, and the work of rehabilitation went swiftly forward.

While the director was still at Newcastle he received a message that an even worse disaster had befallen New Albany. Again sending orders by wire for surgeons, nurses, investigators and supplies, he took train for the scene of the latest calamity, and again he arrived to find the system already at work. The living were cared for and work found for them, the dead buried, and all with the least possible delay and disorganization of the daily life of the community.

The June number of the Red Cross Magazine contains a succinct account of the splendid relief work accomplished.

The work of organizing base hospitals illustrates the forehanded methods of the Red Cross.

With a clarity of vision for which the country now blesses him, Colonel Kean called last autumn for the Red Cross to organize for the army and navy with the least possible delay 36 base hospital units. He did not want hospital buildings—what he wanted was 36 units of surgeons, dentists, apothecaries, orderlies, nurses and assistants, with all the cots, mattresses, bedding, laboratory apparatus, bandages, splints, surgical shirts, bed gowns, and the thousands of things that must be had before a single wounded man can be properly cared for. Each of these 36 base hospital units was to be enrolled and trained, all their permanent equipment bought, and all their consumable supplies bought or made, boxed, labeled and stored, so that the whole could be shipped by train or steamer on notice of a day or two.

Instantly, all over the country, the division directors passed the word to their chapters, and the various committees took up the work of forming base hospital units. Under the supervision of Washington itself the surgeons and nurses were chosen and enrolled. Purchasing agents bought at the lowest possible price the equipment. Under each chapter engaged in the work a committee on hospital supplies got standard patterns and specifications from the war department, and set hundreds and thousands of women to sewing on the bandages, wound dressings and hospital garments.

All that was long before the United States gave up hope of peace. When, finally, the nation declared war, the 36 base hospitals were completely organized, equipped and supplied, and back of them was a great body of men and women trained to the work of keeping them supplied.

That is how the Red Cross works in all its manifold activities. The heads of the organization—and that means the heads of the nation—determine what is needed, and through the division directors to the chapters goes the word of what Washington wants—and instantly the people, on whom rests the Red Cross, begin to supply it.

Belgium was violated, and ten millions of helpless civilians left starving and freezing. The Red Cross to the rescue, and at President Wilson's call money and supplies were raised and sent over, to be there distributed by Red Cross agents.

Serbia was crushed, and stricken with typhus fever. There went the American Red Cross, with strong and capable surgeons and skilled nurses, backed by money and medicines and supplies furnished by the Red Cross. It cost the lives of some of the finest of the Red Cross workers, but typhus was stamped out and thousands upon thousands saved.

There was an earthquake at Messina, Italy. The American Red Cross was there with surgeons and nurses, food and clothing—yes, even with portable frame houses "made in America" to house the victims until they could rebuild their homes.

There was a great famine in China. There, too, was the American Red Cross, not only helping feed the starving, but with a commission of some of the most famous engineers of the war department, to whom China intrusted the task of spending $50,000,000 on a system of works to prevent the overflow of the great river which yearly destroyed crops and caused famine.

That is how the Red Cross works.

Why the work is done by the Red Cross is easiest of all to explain, though perhaps least understood by the public. It is because the work of preparing beforehand to meet unforeseen emergencies, and of alleviating human suffering, has never been undertaken by any other agency. In the words of the old saw, "everybody's business is nobody's business."

It seems almost incredible, but after all the centuries of war and agony, no nation in history ever went to war with an organization capable of caring for the men wounded on the battlefield, to say nothing of the victims of rapine, disease, famine and pestilence that stalked across the land after the armies.

Never, until this present year of grace, has there ever been a base hospital organized, in time of peace, to care for the wounded after a battle. There is a small medical corps with the army, yes; but it can merely pass the wounded back to field and evacuation hospitals, giving only a temporary dressing—often not even that. There are always home hospitals, too. But the gap between them, now filled by base hospital organizations, has never heretofore been filled until thousands lay on the field dying of thirst and fever and loss of blood for lack of that very thing.

After the battle of the Marne, in the present war, the Red Cross facilities were so limited that men lay in the scorching sun on the battlefield for two, three, four, and even five, days with not even a drop of water, nor a bandage on their wounds. It cost thousands of arms and legs that could have been saved, cost many a life needlessly spent, and the anguish endured can never be voiced.

That is why the Red Cross is here. It may be said that the governments of the various countries should have met the need. True—but they never did. All governments are more or less bound down by precedent, constitutional and legislative limitations, politics and short-sightedness. And it has now been found that the Red Cross, protected and encouraged by the government, can do quickly and well many things which the government could not do for itself.

Speaking locally and selfishly, there are strong personal reasons why every American should help the Red Cross. In this war, it may be you or me, your brother or mine, whose life is saved by the bandages the Red Cross is making. Here at home, it may be your house or mine blown up or storm-wrecked or flood-swept; your family or mine left destitute by any one of a score of disasters. And in that case we ourselves would benefit by the ministrations of the Red Cross.

From the standpoint of the business man, a strong and active Red Cross is an insurance policy. When disaster comes, it is always the business man who is called from his office or store to take up the unfamiliar task of raising funds, investigating cases of destitution, overseeing the purchase of supplies and their distribution, and getting the survivors back to where they can earn their living again. But with a trained Red Cross the disturbance of normal life is at a minimum. Almost before a citizen's committee could be called together, capable and experienced men, directed by the head of a division, himself under orders from Washington, lays a firm and steady hand on affairs, and relief is given surely, swiftly, justly, and the business man does not have to spend valuable days and weeks at work for which he has no training.

Nationally and locally, the Red Cross is the best accident insurance any people can have.

ISN'T THIS SILLY?

"Arch," she of the high arches and arched eyebrows said, archly, "do you love me?"

"Why, of course, why shouldn't I, Gladys? You've got the Gladys rags in this town and when I know you're my own little Glad, I'm Gladys I can be."

HAPPENINGS of the week IN MISSOURI

Henry Toesken, member of Company E, Fourth Regiment, National Guard of Missouri, was drowned recently in a slough near Hannibal while swimming. His body was recovered. He was 26 years old.

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Dr. W. S. Woods, retired Kansas City banker and several times a millionaire, died recently at the Elms hotel in Excelsior Springs. He suffered an attack of paralysis while at the office of Craven & Moore, his Excelsior Springs lawyers, and was taken to the hotel.

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Corn is making splendid growth everywhere in Missouri, the weekly weather and crop bulletin says. Fields are clean and well cultivated.

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Six cousins of the same surname and all young farmers from the vicinity of Pattonsburg have applied at the St. Joseph recruiting station for enlistment in the United States navy.

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At a conference at Washington, D. C., between George W. Arnold, president, and E. G. Bylander, secretary of the Missouri State Fair, Herbert Hoover, food dictator, representatives of the War and Navy Departments and the Department of Justice, the government agreed not to take over the Missouri State Fair grounds for an aviation corps training camp until after the closing of the state fair on September 29, and also determined to have the War and Navy Departments and the Food Conservation Department make extensive demonstrations at the state fair this fall.

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Two hundred and ten gallons of whisky and one hundred gallons of grain alcohol were taken from a freight car at Camden the other night by the sheriff of Ray county. At the same time a man giving his name as Claude C. Upton was arrested and is being held.

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Arthur Warren, mail carrier between Sycamore, Ozark county, and West Plains, was instantly killed by lightning during a storm recently. His team also was killed.

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Late-planted corn, if a very early maturing variety of Northern grown seed, is, on the average Missouri farm, the best emergency crop, combining the largest number of chances for both food for man and feed for animals. If you have a silo, all the better as to forage. The later the frost (of course) the better the catch crop of any sort.

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I. B. Dunlap of Kansas City, a member of the Missouri Council of Defense, has arranged to make a trip to Washington, D. C., for the purpose of offering to the Secretary of War, on behalf of state authorities, for an aviation training school, the free use of the state fair buildings at Sedalia.

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John S. Currell, 78 years old is dead at his home south of Excelsior Springs. He was a native Missourian, born at Fayette in 1839, and had lived here several years. Three daughters survive.

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The stockman, after July 1 and as late as August 1, can put a portion of his catch acreage in sorghum—Early Amber being mighty fine. This is a standard early maturing variety, sowing fifty to a hundred pounds to the acre for hay crop. There are many other sorghums ranging from amber to kafir, milo, feterita, and Sudan grass, of varying value on Missouri soils. This is no time to experiment, so it is unnecessary to discuss new or novel crops.

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Peter R. Myers, 54 years old, a traveling salesman and resident of Sedalia for forty-five years is dead. The widow and one son survive.

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A campaign to vote 373,000 in bonds with which to build a system of 365-day-in-the-year roads for Mississippi county has been launched, the election having been set for July 26.

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Ito San, Early Black Dwarf, and some other early varieties of soybeans, have made splendid crops of hay of the first quality, rich in feeding value, planted after July 4, when frost came late.

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Southwest Missouri will ship about 215 carloads of Alberta peaches from the Koshkonong, Brandsville and other districts, according to estimates of farm agents of the Frisco railroad. The movement of the crop will start about August 1. W. H. Olin, supervisor of farm marketing, estimated that 2,055 cars of watermelons will be shipped from southeast Missouri, 165 from Arkansas and three hundred from Oklahoma. Rain is needed for crops.

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Mrs. Frank Reynolds, 57 years old, wife of a Burlington Railroad engineer, plunged eighteen feet to the bottom of a ravine near Hannibal and was killed. She was attempting to cross a creek on a tree which had fallen over it.

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Jesse Marr, a pioneer farmer of Saline county, is dead at his home three miles south of Marshall. He was born in Fayette county in 1836 and settled in Saline county when a young man. He fought throughout the Civil War in the Confederate Army.

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Central Missouri seldom has seen a more favorable crop outlook than it sees this year, according to R. C. Biggerstaff, superintendent of publicity and concessions of the State Fair association.

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Gen. David Thompson Chapter United States of 1812 and fifty descendants of Capt. Reuben Gentry met at Sedalia recently and honored the memory of the distinguished soldier when a bronze marker was placed over the grave of Captain Gentry in [illegible] Hill cemetery.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Aged Indian Is Eager to Serve the Country

WASHINGTON.—Quana Washosha, as his fellow Comanchians know him, or just plain Capt. H. B. Hicks, Comanche Indian chief of Oklahoma, was in the city recently to pay his respects to President Wilson and to offer his services in whatever capacity he might serve during the war, either in this country or in France.

Captain Hicks was chief of the Indian scouts with the recent Pershing expedition into Mexico, and was wounded in one engagement with the Villa forces. Shortly after war was declared he succeeded in inducing 1,000 of his tribe in far-away Oklahoma to remove their paint, cut their hair and garb themselves in the khaki in place of the Indian blankets. These 1,000 men are now in training at Fort Sill, Okla., and awaiting word from the war department that will send them for duty in France, on the Mexican border or wherever they are most needed.

Captain Hicks is seventy-four years old, but remarkably well preserved and bubbling over with enthusiasm in the thought that he may have a chance to be of service to the country. He realizes that his advanced years make it well-nigh impossible for him to join the forces in actual fighting. But if there is opportunity for scout duty, he is ready to do just as much in France as he did for the Pershing forces during the expedition in Mexico.

Captain Hicks claims to be the son of George McAlpin, whose remains rest in a cemetery in Hyattsville, Md. McAlpin was at one time a wealthy Baltimore merchant and served the government in the purchase of supplies during the Civil war. He was also prominent in Masonic circles in this section of the country and founder of Oriental, 289, of Philadelphia.

Captain Hicks points with pride to the fact that he is a graduate of the Carlisle Indian school. Globe trotter, champion rifle shot and champion pedestrian, are some other references that bring a smile to his countenance, and cause him to talk of adventures that have made his life worth the living.

Capital Society Women Sewing for Red Cross

FOLLOWING the example set by Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall, wife of the vice president, nearly all of the women in the official circle here devote many hours daily to sewing for the Red Cross. Not only this, but they are organizing other women to help in the good work.

Mrs. Marshall has organized the wives of senators and they meet every Monday morning in the headquarters of the Red Cross and make surgical dressings, sew on hospital garments or make themselves useful in other ways. Some of those interested in this class are Mrs. Thomas P. Gore, Mrs. Willard Saulsbury, Mrs. Claude Swanson, Mrs. Ralph Gallinger, Mrs. Frank Kellogg and Mrs. Maurice Sheppard. Mrs. Franklin K. Lane, wife of the secretary of the interior, was the first to organize the women in the federal service. She got together those in her husband's department and they have done an astonishing amount of work.

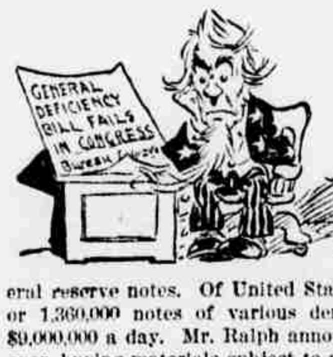
Mrs. William Gibbs McAdoo, wife of the secretary of the treasury, is whipping into shape a similar organization among the women of the treasury department.

Mrs. Robert Lansing, wife of the secretary of state, is taking steps to bring together the officials of the state department and the women employed there, and Mrs. David Franklin Houston, wife of the secretary of agriculture, and Mrs. Carl Vrooman, wife of the assistant secretary of agriculture, are conferring with a view to starting a similar movement in the department of agriculture.

The Home club, a social and economic club composed of the employees of the interior department, of which Secretary Lane is honorary president, has been the greatest amount of assistance to Mrs. Lane in perfecting her organization. Meetings have been held in the headquarters of the club, which also serves as a clearing house, and through the officers of the club the rank and file of the employees of the department have been reached.

Government Laundry Will Continue to Operate

WHEN the general deficiency bill failed of passage in the senate in the closing session of the last congress, Director Ralph of the bureau of engraving found himself in a dilemma not at all reassuring, as the bureau depends entirely on the general deficiency bill to keep on with its work. There were 50,000,000 stamps a day to be furnished to the post office department for the public service; internal revenue stamps to be turned over by the bureau every day amounting to between $1,500,000 and $1,750,000.



Paper money in various kinds to meet the public demand to the face value of $20,000,000 a day on an average must be turned out, and the bureau had orders for $800,000,000 federal reserve notes. Of United States notes alone the output is 340,000 sheets, or 1,360,000 notes of various denominations; approximately an average of $9,000,000 a day. Mr. Ralph announced he would proceed with business, however, buying materials subject to appropriation by congress, the direct responsibility, of course, resting on the secretary of the treasury, under whose directions he will continue. The laundry will run, because without it the work of engraving and printing could not continue, for the hundreds of blankets used by the printers are washed there, besides the rags for the presses, the covers and other adjuncts necessary to the work of turning out the stamps and money. The towels used by the 4,087 employees, all of whom have a fresh towel daily, and the towels, linens and other articles used in the hospital are washed and sterilized in this laundry.

This is the largest of the government laundries, having a separate drying room for the plate blankets and absorbent cloths, and employs 17 operatives to run it besides a woman superintendent, who inspects every piece of laundry before it is sent out.

Watchman Didn't Know Distinguished Visitor

ALONG about the middle of the afternoon a tall, solidly built man with a small gray mustache left the elevator at the eighth floor of the Munsey building where the council of national defense and the shipping board are quartered. There was a watchman in the hallway.

"Where can I get hold of a stenographer?" asked the visitor.

"The stenographers are all gone," said the watchman, carelessly.

"Then get me a clerk," said the visitor, imperatively.

"Saturday half holidays have begun in government departments," said the watchman. "They're all gone."

The visitor brushed his way past the watchman and started down the corridor at a brisk pace. As the watchman was about to pursue the stranger another person stepped from the elevator. He happened to be a newspaper man and he knew the watchman.

"What's the excitement?" he asked.

"I've got to get that guy down the hall," said the watchman. "I told him we were all closed up, but he butted right in."

"Know who he is?" asked the newspaper man.

"No."

"That's General Goethals."

"Gosh!" cried the watchman.

A second later he was making a record sprint down the hall, in the trail of the general.

SOME POSTSCRIPTS

To help in picking fruit a Californian has patented a thimble with a knife blade at the end.

A new burglar-proof lock resembles a hinge and the bolts drop perpendicularly into sockets.

Paper clubs for policemen, practically indestructible, have been invented by an Englishman.

A parachute invented by a Frenchman can be guided by pulling cords that draw in its sides.

HOW FLAGS ARE MADE

The many thousands of stars used on Old Glory each year are cut out by a cutting machine, which manages the eight different sizes needed. The stars on the reverse are simply pieces of cloth basted to the blue field. An operator using a "zigzag" machine stitches around the edge of the star, which has been cut out by machine; this makes a star pattern on the piece of cloth basted on the reverse, and the excess material is cut with scissors by a "trimmer." These vary in dimensions from 14 inches in diameter down to 2 inches. But of all the flags of the United States, the president's flag entails the most labor. To make it requires all of one woman's time for a full month. The flag, consisting of a blue ground with the coat of arms of the United States in the center, is hand sewed, and it takes days of patient stitching to secure in place the life-sized eagle with its great wings outstretched. The flag is made in two sizes, 10 by 14 feet and 8 by 5 feet.—Scientific American.

Too Lazy.

"I don't have to work for a living," said the shiftless individual.

"Of course, you don't," rejoined the busy man. "If you did, it's a safe bet that you wouldn't be living."

SCRAPS

Fogs indicate settled weather.

Colombia is completing a new railway.

Salvador is building national highways.

British geologists have estimated that more than 24,000,000,000 tons of coal remain in the Welsh fields.

Driven by a 800-horsepower electric motor, a stone crusher in a Michigan limestone plant can crush 1,350 tons of rock an hour.

Hollow concrete telegraph poles, built up around bases of wood and steel, are a European invention.

A water power method for breaking down rock in masses instead of crumbling it has been invented in Europe.

The geological survey has estimated that there are about 1,600,000 troy ounces of platinum in the United States.

When they treated a man with X-rays for [illegible]